

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-06 IOE-00 EB-07 SS-15 OES-06

AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9956

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY - SECOND WEEK

REF: (A) GENEVA 3525, (B) GENEVA 3748, (C) GENEVA 3670,
(D) STATE 119695

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. COMMITTEE "B" RELUCTANTLY VOTED SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR 1976 TO PAY FOR RECENT GENEVA GENERAL SERVICE STAFF SALARY INCREASES. G-77 PUSHED THROUGH COMMITTEE "A" RESOLUTION CALLING FOR 60 PERCENT OF REGULAR BUDGET TO GO INTO "TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SERVICES" BY 1980. COMMITTEE "A" APPROVED REGULAR 1977 BUDGET LEVEL OF \$147,184,000. ALSO APPROVED "SIXTH PROGRAM OF WORK." CUBA WITHDREW ITS CANDIDACY FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD. MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ISSUE DURING THIRD WEEK WILL BE THAT OF HEALTH CONDITIONS IN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET: DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET OF \$1.81 MILLION TO COVER GENEVA STAFF SALARY INCREASES IN 1976 CREATED CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE IN COMMITTEE "B". FINALLY, UK FORMULA--TO GRANT SUPPLEMENT ON CONDITION DG MAKE EQUIVALENT SAVINGS IN HEADQUARTERS COSTS (MAINLY ON STAFF) BY END OF 1978--RALLIED NECESSARY TWO THIRDS MAJORITY IN VOTE ON MAY 11. US AND CANADA ABSTAINED; FRANCE OPPOSED. DURING DEBATE, G-77 TRIED TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION ORDERING

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DG TO STREAMLINE WHO OPERATIONS SO AS TO SPEND SHARPLY MORE

ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION, BUT SECRETARIAT TOLD THEM THEIR RESOLUTION BELONGED IN COMMITTEE "A".

3. NEW PROGRAM BUDGET POLICY: G-77 RESOLUTION (ABOVE) STIRRED TWO DAY DEBATE IN COMMITTEE "A" BEFORE BEING ADOPTED BY BIG MAJORITY OF 82-0-26 (US) ON MAY 13 (REF B). DURING FOLLOWING TWO DAYS, RESPONDING TO LDC QUESTIONS FROM FLOOR, DG WARNED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION WOULD TAKE TIME. HE SAID IT COULD HAVE ONLY SMALL IMPACT ON 1977 PROGRAMS. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFUL CONSULTATION WITH EXECUTIVE BOARD (NEXT MAJOR MEETING OF WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY 1977). DG SAID HE WOULD PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION THAT G-77 WANTED REORIENTATION OF WHO WORK TO BE CARRIED WITHOUT HARM TO PROGRAMS FROM WHICH ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITED. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS OBVIOUS NEED TO ESTABLISH LIST OF PRIORITIES IN ORDER TO FIT REQUIREMENTS OF RESOLUTION INTO THE MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES WHO MEMBERS HAD APPROVED IN PAST AND PRESENT MEETINGS OF WHA. DG SAID WHA WOULD BE ASKED TO DECIDE ON THESE PRIORITIES NEXT YEAR.

4. 1977 BUDGET LEVEL: ON MAY 15 DG ASKED COMMITTEE "A" TO APPROVE EFFECTIVE BUDGET LEVEL OF \$147,184,000. (INCREASE OF \$284,000 OVER PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FIGURE RESULTED FROM COMMITTEE "B" APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNT TO COVER UNANTICIPATED COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH INTRODUCTION OF CHINESE AS WORKING LANGUAGE PURSUANT TO EARLIER WHA DECISION.) 28 DELEGATIONS TOOK FLOOR. WITH EXCEPTION OF KUWAIT, SWEDEN AND BELGIUM, WHOSE DELEGATIONS DECLARED WHO BUDGET TOO SMALL, GENERAL THEME OF INTERVENTIONS OF DCS AND LDCS ALIKE WAS THAT ASSESSMENTS HAD GROWN PAINFULLY LARGE AND THERE MUST BE CONTINUING EFFORT BY DG TO HOLD THEM DOWN WHILE GIVING MEMBERS EVEN MORE FOR THEIR MONEY. VOTE WAS 83(US)-7-4.

5. SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS: COMMITTEE "A" APPROVED IMPORTANT "SIXTH GENERAL PROGRAM OF WORK" SETTING FORTH GUIDELINES FOR WHO ACTIVITIES FOR YEARS 1978-83. RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED AFTER USEFUL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS, AND COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY.

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6. CUBA: WHA'S GENERAL COMMITTEE, IN MEETING TO CHOSE TEN COUNTRIES FOR SEATS ON EXECUTIVE BOARD, HAD TO DECIDE WHICH TWO OF THE THREE NAMES SUBMITTED BY THE AMERICAN CAUCUS (PERU, HONDURAS, CUBA)--SEE REF A--IT WOULD "RECOMMEND" TO PLENARY TO FILL THE TWO "AMERICAN" SEATS ON EXECUTIVE BOARD. IN SECRET BALLOTING CUBA LOST OUT BY SINGLE VOTE. ITS NAME CONSEQUENTLY WAS PRESENTED TO

PLENARY AS SOLE NOMINEE ON LIST OF ELEVEN THAT DID NOT HAVE GENERAL COMMITTEE SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT. AS SOON AS LIST OF ELEVEN COUNTRIES WAS READ OUT IN PLENARY, CUBAN DELEGATE ASKED FOR FLOOR AND WITHDREW DUBA'S CANDIDACY IN SHORT, GOOD HUMORED STATEMENT THAT STRESSED INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY AND DREW APPLAUSE.

7. ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: THIS ISSUE LIKELY TO COME BEFORE COMMITTEE "B" MAY 17. ARAB DELEGATIONS ATTEMPTING TO ROUND UP SUPPORT FOR SOME TACTIC WHICH WOULD HAVE SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT (REF C) REJECTED ON BASIS THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS DID NOT VISIT TERRITORIES AS GROUP. STILL UNCLEAR AS OF MORNING MAY 17 HOW THIS ISSUE WILL BE PLAYED. MEANWHILE DELEGATION IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ISRAELI AND WEO DELEGATIONS, AND WITH SECRETARIAT ON PROCEDURE. ABRAMS

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